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# The President's Daily Brief

*October 18, 1975*

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~~*Top Secret*~~ 25X1

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October 18, 1975

Table of Contents

USSR: [redacted] *(Page 1)* 25X1

Egypt-UN: Cairo's political maneuvering is causing last-minute problems as the UN Security Council prepares to vote on renewing the mandate of the UN force in the Sinai, which expires next Friday. *(Page 2)*

Israel: Defense Minister Peres has elaborated his position on several key issues regarding future Arab-Israeli negotiations. *(Page 3)*

Lebanon: [redacted] a PLO document that represents a major effort by the PLO to improve its relations with the Lebanese government. Clashes in Beirut overnight ended two days of relative calm. *(Page 5)* 25X1

Portugal: The anti-government campaign being waged by the left has sparked rumors that radical military officers are planning a coup. *(Page 7)*

Notes: USSR; Israel-Syria; Angola; Argentina *(Pages 8 and 9)*



Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A012800010042-9

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A012800010042-9



USSR

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

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EGYPT-UN

*Egyptian political maneuvering is causing last-minute problems as the UN Security Council prepares to vote on renewing for one year the mandate of the UN Emergency Force in the Sinai, which expires next Friday.*

Cairo says it will refuse to approve any document or resolution that mentions Israeli acceptance of a renewed mandate. The Egyptians say that, because the UNEF operates on their territory, Israel can have no acknowledged voice in determining the duration of the mandate. In the past, the Egyptians have gone along with the UN practice of asking both parties to consent to an extension.

This time, the Egyptians are particularly anxious to show their Arab allies that the UNEF operates solely at the sufferance of Egypt and that relevant decisions are not determined by Israel. Egypt is thus trying to limit the damage caused in its relations with some Arab states--notably Syria--by its decision to sign the latest disengagement accord.

Secretary General Waldheim is to release his report on UNEF's operations for the Security Council's consideration before the vote on renewal next week. The report is not likely to touch on sensitive political issues, but financing of an enlarged force to carry out expanded responsibilities remains an unresolved and divisive problem.





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Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A012800010042-9



ISRAEL

*Defense Minister Peres recently elaborated his position on several key issues regarding future Arab-Israeli negotiations* [redacted] 25X1 25X1

Peres [redacted] sees no possibility of negotiating a final peace agreement with Syria under present circumstances. He said it might be possible to obtain another interim agreement with Damascus, but such an agreement would have to involve more than "cosmetic" changes. He said Tel Aviv would demand that President Asad agree to extend the UN mandate on the Golan for three to five years and accept language similar to that in the latest Sinai agreement. 25X1

Peres [redacted] indicated [redacted] the government does not wish to repeat its Sinai negotiating experience and will first try to learn Syria's minimum demands before presenting any detailed maps of its own. 25X1 25X1 25X1

Peres dismissed the idea of an informal multiparty conference to facilitate negotiations with Syria on the grounds that negotiations could be successful only if they were limited to the parties directly concerned, with the possible addition of Secretary Kissinger. He did not think talks could get under way before the UN mandate on the Golan expires on November 30.

Peres seemed convinced of the need to renew the UN mandate. He speculated that, as a face-saving gesture to enable Asad to approve a renewal before the November deadline, Secretary Kissinger might arrange a special conference for the purpose of announcing a date for the resumption of talks sometime next February or March. Peres thinks Damascus is interested in another six-month extension to get through the winter, give it more time to strengthen relations with Jordan, and see how the situation in Lebanon develops.

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On Lebanon, the Israeli defense minister stated flatly that Israel would not make a preemptive military move into southern Lebanon. He warned, however, that while Tel Aviv does not plan to counter Syrian political involvement in Lebanon, Syrian military intervention would result in Israeli counteraction. Damascus, he thought, is mindful of Israel's position on this score.

Peres insisted Tel Aviv would not negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organization. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] all Israeli cabinet 25X1
ministers [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] believe they have 25X1
complete US backing for their position.

Peres ruled out the possibility of tying the Palestinian issue to negotiations with Syria as demanded by President Asad because, he said, Damascus would insist on PLO participation in the discussions. He admitted the Palestinian issue cannot be swept under the rug indefinitely, but he only repeated Tel Aviv's standard line that the issue should be taken up in the context of negotiations with Jordan.





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LEBANON

[redacted] 25X1

*memorandum* [redacted] 25X1
*by the Palestine Liberation Organization as the basis for PLO-Lebanese relations. The document represents a major effort by the PLO to improve its relations with the Lebanese government.*

*Clashes between Christians and Muslims in Beirut last night ended two days of relative calm.*

25X1

The PLO memorandum rejects the idea of the Palestinians settling permanently in Lebanon, renounces the use of force to settle Lebanese-Palestinian differences, and calls for all Lebanese, including the Phalangists, to accept the Palestinian presence in Lebanon as legal.

Most important, it states that the government should exercise authority over all Lebanese territory. The PLO [redacted] believes that even if it turns its policing function over to the Lebanese army and security forces, the fedayeen would retain ultimate authority in most areas because of their overwhelming power in the neighboring refugee camps. 25X1

[redacted] the memorandum showed a constructive spirit and paved the way for a fruitful exchange. Christian leaders were more cautious. [redacted] the true test of the Palestinians' intentions would be their readiness to begin implementing the memorandum. [redacted] 25X1 25X1 25X1 25X1

[redacted]

[redacted]

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According to press reports, several persons died last night in Muslim-Christian clashes in Beirut, and kidnapings by both sides continued to occur. Our embassy reports that traffic into the city this morning was not as heavy as yesterday, although all access roads are open. A Beirut paper states that economic losses this year resulting from the conflict may amount to $3.5 billion, an estimate the US embassy believes is reasonable. Press estimates of those killed in all the fighting this year range from just over 1,500 to over 8,000, with 6,000 the figure most often reported.





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## PORTUGAL

*The anti-government campaign being waged by the Communists and the far left has sparked rumors that radical military officers are planning to overthrow Prime Minister Azevedo's government. Given the shaky condition of the government, a move against it cannot be completely ruled out, but the near term will more likely bring another struggle between dissident and loyal elements in the military.*

We have been unable so far to determine the validity of the latest rumors of an imminent leftist coup attempt. These rumors, as did earlier ones, say the attempt is to come before November 11, the date Angola is scheduled to become independent. The rationale is that it would be necessary for the new leaders to be in control in Lisbon if they are to influence the eventual outcome in Angola. In fact, events in Angola have taken on a momentum of their own, and there is little any government in Lisbon can do to alter their course.

The radical "Soldiers United Will Win" organization is continuing its protests against the government on several fronts, including a threat of more violence by the mutinous leftist soldiers in Porto. In response to the unrest, President Costa Gomes yesterday announced tough directives aimed at recovering illegal arms, many of which are thought to be in the hands of extreme leftists.

The uncertainties in mainland Portugal appear to have stirred new separatist activity in the Azores. The military has tightened security, but doubts have been raised about the reliability of the army troops stationed in the islands.





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NOTES

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The SL-12 booster [redacted] is the mainstay of Soviet lunar and planetary exploration programs. It has been very reliable in recent years, after overcoming serious problems in its early development.

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*The National Front for the Liberation of* Angola, *probably supported by Zairian troops, has stepped up its drive toward Luanda.*

Heavy fighting is reported less than 13 miles from the capital between forces of the National Front and the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola. According to a press account, an advance contingent of the Front has advanced to within sight of Luanda's outer industrial area. Since it was forced to withdraw from Luanda last June, the National Front has tried to discredit the Popular Movement's claim to control the capital area by mounting a siege of the city rather than fighting its way back in. The Front may change its plans, however, if it encounters less resistance than it expects.

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* * *

Argentine *President Maria Estela Peron appears to have bought some time for her government with the non-controversial speech she gave yesterday at a major Peronist rally.*

Peron adhered closely to a prepared text obviously approved in advance by Peronist and military leaders. It touched on three popular themes--evoking her husband's memory, denouncing terrorism, and promising support for the armed forces in their fight against subversion. The surface calm is likely to be temporary, for the return of the widely discredited President undoubtedly will increase political tensions. 25X1
it seems unlikely that the armed forces will take any immediate action after having permitted Peron to resume the presidency.





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